28th February 1955]

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) There are 2,311 Minor Irrigation tanks in South Arcot district.

" (b) General repairs have not been done in respect of 961 tanks during the past 12 years."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" தென்னாற்காடு ஒரு உயர்ந்த பிரதேசம் என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியும். மைனர் இர்ரிகேஷன் குளங்களை அரசாங்கம் கவனித்து மராமத்து செய்யவில்லை என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கொடுத்த பதிலிலிருந்து தெரிகிறது. இதற்கு விசேஷமான இலாகாவை அமைத்து அதிகப்படியான அதிகாரிகளை நியமித்து வருகிற ஆண்டில் தகுந்த ரிப்பேர்களைச் செய்வதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா ?"

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" That is why the Government have now proposed to implement a sort of Five-Year Plan to attend to repairs of tanks, clearance of channels and to enforce kudimaramath."

Sri S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will come forward to give instructions to the Food Production Department to undertake the repairs of those tanks that are left unrepaired."

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The Food Production Department is also being instructed."

Public meeting at Poonor, North Malabar

* 971 *Q*.—Sri C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP (on behalf of Sri P. Kunhirama Kidav) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a public meeting held at Poonor, Unnikulam amsom, Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar, on 2nd December 1954 under the Presidentship of Mr. N. A. Sreedharan, was dispersed by throwing of stones and violence;

(*b*) whether the Police officials on the spot failed to take necessary steps to avoid the happenings; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government have taken against the culprits and the police official who failed to discharge his duty of maintaining law and order?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) It is not true to say that the meeting in question had been dispersed by the pelting of stones. It appears that the speakers indulged in unrestricted personal attacks on a local landlord and a shandy contractor. Towards the close of the meeting, a few stones were pelted from the groves nearby, obviously by some miscrepants. This resulted in some confusion. But the Police officers, who were present on the spot succeeded in maintaining peace and order. The meeting continued for some time even after the pelting of stones.

" (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*c*) Does not arise."